(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) The Sixth Pay Commission has not made any recommendations or suggestions in respect of performance-related pay to the Central Government till date.

Lowering of import duty on palmolein

4352. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reduced the import duty on palmolein recently;

(b) if so, its impact on the price of the coconut and coconut oil;

(c) whether Government are aware that the coconut growers are not getting adequate and remunerative prices; and

(d) what steps Government will take to protect the coconut growers from the adverse impact of liberal import of palmolein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir. With effect from 13th April, 2007, import duty on palmolein was reduced by ten percentage points.

(b) to (d) Domestic prices of edible oils, including coconut oil, depend on a number of factors including demand and supply, domestic production of oilseeds, tax burden on imports including customs duty etc. The rates of customs duty on edible oils are calibrated in such a way so as to ensure that landed cost (i.e. sum of C.I.F. price and customs duty) of these oils does not go below the landed cost prevailing in the beginning of April, 2006, to ensure a reasonable protection to domestic oilseed farmers.

Loans disbursed in rural areas

4353. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total loan disbursed by Public Sector Banks in the rural areas of the country during past two years;

(b) how much agricultural loan was disbursed in rural areas and what per cent it was of the total out of above total loan;

(c) whether guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India were followed; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The Government has enhanced rural credit during the last three years. Further, the credit flow to agriculture has doubled in two years since 2003-04. The total agriculture advances by the public sector banks as on last Friday of September, 2006 stood at Rs. 1,74,866.16 crore forming 15.54 per cent of Net Bank Credit while that by the private sector banks at Rs. 32,178.35 crore forming 11.58 per cent of Net Bank Credit.

(c) and (d) Reserve Bank of India policy stipulate a target of 40% of Adjusted Net Bank Credit or credit equivalent amount of off balance sheet exposure of the bank outstanding as on March 31 of the previous year for lending to priority sector by scheduled commercial banks. Within this overall target, a sub-target of 18% has been prescribed for agricultural purposes.

The banks that are unable to fulfil their commitment towards agriculture lending or priority sector lending are required to contribute a stipulated amount of Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) maintained with NABARD for development of rural infrastructure through State Governments, the quantum of which depends on the corpus announced by Government of India each year. In order to disincentivise banks for not fulfilling their stipulated target, the rate of interest on RIDF deposits is kept inversely proportional to the shortfall in target, greater the shortfall, lower the interest.

Evasion of income tax by educational institutions

4354. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether private educational institutions not approved/registered by UGC/AICTE are evading income tax and service-tax;